

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 25, 2006 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-39 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-7, 11-20 and 24-39; and objects to Claims 8-10 and 21-23. In order to advance prosecution, Applicants amend Claims 1, 14, and 27, cancel claims 7-8, 20-21, and 33-34. Applicants do not admit that these amendments or cancellations were necessitated by any art references or rejections of claims. Applicants also add new claims 40-45.

Section 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 27-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, Applicants amend Claim 27 to advance prosecution in this case.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 24, 25, 27-29, 31, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0098620 A1 to Zhou, et al. ("*Zhou*").

The Examiner rejects Claims 4, 17 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zhou* as applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 24, 25, 27-29, 31, 37 and 38 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,085 B1 issued to Samuels ("*Samuels*") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0083013 A1 to Mowery, et al. ("*Mowery*").

The Examiner rejects Claims 6, 19 and 32 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zhou* as applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 24, 25, 27-29, 31, 37 and 38 above, and further in view of what the Examiner considers to be well known in the art, as exemplified by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0142683 A1 to Lam, et al. ("*Lam*").

The Examiner rejects Claims 13, 26 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zhou* as applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 24, 25, 27-29, 31, 37

and 38 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0217179 A1 to Famolari, et al. ("*Famolari*").

The Examiner has indicated that the allowability of Claims 7, 20 and 33 have been withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to *Zhou*.

Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 8-10 and 21-23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further indicates that Claims 34-36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amendments

Applicants amend Claims 1, 14, and 27 to include particular features of claims 7-8, claims 20-21, and claims 33-34, respectively. None of the cited references taken alone or in combination with each other teach the elements of amended Claims 1, 14, and 27. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 14, and 27. Claims 2-6, 9-13, 15-19, 22-26, 28-32, and 35-39 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-6, 9-13, 15-19, 22-26, 28-32, and 35-39.

Applicants add new claims 40-45 which incorporate particular features of claims 9-10, 22-23, and 35-36. None of the cited references taken alone or in combination with each other teach the elements of amended Claims 40-45. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 40-45.

CONCLUSION

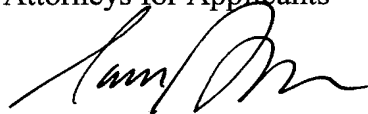
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$600.00 additional claim fee and to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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